

national, comprehensive study to identify best practices to protect and preserve the Mississippi River, America's greatest waterway. Additionally, by passing this bill, Congress is investing in tackling the urgent challenge of global climate change. The bill provides over \$178 million for climate change programs in the Department of the Interior, \$80 million for climate change planning and on-the-ground conservation efforts at the Fish and Wildlife Service, and \$31 million for climate change adaptation activities at the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs. Climate change is happening now, and Congress must invest to adapt to its impacts on America's lands and economy.

My state of Minnesota is blessed with fresh water resources, including over 10,000 lakes and the headwaters of the Mississippi River. This legislation provides \$667 million—\$507 million over FY2009—in much-needed investments to promote and protect our nation's great water bodies. This includes \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which will involve the coordination and collaboration of 16 Federal agencies, the States of the Great Lakes Region, local government, and citizens groups in an effort to restore the source of 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water. This bill also directs EPA to invest in essential research on the human health and environmental impacts of endocrine disrupting compounds and other contaminants in our water supply.

This bill makes important investments to empower our country's Native American communities and enhance support of the arts. It provides \$6.8 billion for programs at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service, including almost an almost \$7 million increase in funding for the Urban Indian Health Program. And finally, H.R. 2996 includes funding increases for the National Endowment of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. I strongly support these investments and applaud the Committee for these including these provisions.

I urge passage of this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF FATHER FLOYD LOTITO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I pay tribute today to a man of God who dedicated his life to improving the lives of those less fortunate. Father Floyd Lotito, the heart and soul of St. Anthony's Dining Room, left our world on July 14, ending his long and valiant struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Born in Los Angeles, as Alfonso Joseph Lotito, he took Floyd as his religious name when he entered the Franciscan Order in 1953, prior to being ordained into the priesthood seven years later. He received his Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Old Mission Theological Seminary in Santa Barbara and his Masters in Speech and Communication Arts from Marquette University.

Before joining the St. Anthony Foundation in 1968, Father Floyd spent time as a high school teacher in Santa Barbara and as a par-

ish priest in communities all across our country.

When I think of Father Floyd, I remember a man who knew everyone's name, yet called us all "brother" or "sister" as a sign of respect. He went out of his way to make people feel special and was known locally for his annual Blessing of the Taxi Fleet and the Blessing of the Animals.

Father Floyd's wisdom and eloquence garnered him invitations to give the benediction at the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco, the opening of Pacific Bell Park in 2000, and many others.

The St. Anthony Foundation has ministered to the poor and down-on-their-luck for more than 40 years, in large part due to Father Floyd's ability to reach people of all types in profoundly personal ways. He did not see rich or poor, he only saw those who could help and those who needed help.

Father Floyd held many positions at St. Anthony's, but nearest to his heart was the St. Anthony Dining Room. Opened in 1981, it is now the leading free-meal program in the city, providing more than 2,500 meals a day to San Francisco's poor. Earlier this year, Father Floyd served his 35 millionth meal.

Madam Speaker, our community is fortunate to have been blessed with Father Floyd. He leaves our community better than he found it and it brightens my heart to know that San Francisco has yet another angel to help guide us.

A TRIBUTE HONORING THE FALKENTHAL-NICHOLS WEDDING

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to two young Americans who are starting their new life together. On Friday, June 4, 2009, Michelle Lynn Falkenthal and Michael David Nichols were joined in matrimony surrounded by their loving family and friends at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden located on the campus of California State University, Long Beach.

Michelle Falkenthal was born in West Covina, California on December 24, 1979. Her mother, Evelyn Bobbitt, is an accounting technician for the County of San Bernardino, and her step-father, David Bobbitt, is a director of audits for Riverside Community College. Her father is Robert Falkenthal, an attorney in private practice, and her step-mother is Jennette Falkenthal, a homemaker. Michelle graduated from Colton high school and is currently employed as a billing agent for Cox Communications.

Michael Nichols was born in Arcadia, California on December 12, 1980. His mother, Linda Nichols, is a secretary at Arcadia High School, and his father, Ken Nichols, is a general contractor. Michael attended Arcadia High School and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. He is employed as an independent contractor pilot.

In this constantly developing age of electronic communications, it's no surprise that the young couple first met via the internet. After several weeks of getting acquainted online,

Michelle and Michael had their first date on June 5, 2007. They were engaged fifteen months later on September 14, 2008. The couple enjoys spending time with family and friends, going to Big Bear Lake, bike riding, and remodeling their new home, among other activities. Their many friends say Michelle and Michael are very well suited for each other, and their families already consider each of them a member of the family. The newlywed couple will make their home in the city of Chino Hills in Los Angeles County.

Michelle and Michael were joined in their wedding celebration in Long Beach by guests from across town and across the country. Family and friends traveled from Maryland, Washington, DC, Sacramento, Oxnard, Newberry Park, the Inland Empire, and from across southern California. Special participants in the wedding ceremony included the maid of honor Casandra Holiday, the bridesmaids, Sally Lara and Evie Bobbitt, the bride's niece and sister respectively, and the groomsmen Travis Amezcua, Ryan Benigno, Caleb Gray, and Dustin Mullins. Leading the bridal party and assembled family and guests in the wedding celebration and officiating the vows was the Reverend Doctor Paul Yestebo of the New Hope Community Church in Huntington Beach.

Madam Speaker, I offer my best congratulations to the Bobbitt, Falkenthal, and Nichols families, and their friends and guests on this happy and memorable occasion. To Michelle and Michael, I offer the sentiment and gifts which George Bailey offered the Martini family as they moved into their new home in the classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life": "Bread! That their house may never know hunger. Salt! That life may always have flavor. And wine! That joy and prosperity may reign forever." Lastly, I wish that throughout their wonderful life together, Michelle and Michael will always have an abundance of what St. Paul wrote of in his letter to the Corinthians, "faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love."

FOOD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant support of H.R. 2749, the Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009. While I support the legislation, it is by no means perfect and it is my sincere hope that the concerns I share with my colleagues in the House will be addressed as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Ensuring the safety of America's food supply is a critical issue, which warrants our utmost attention. In light of recent outbreaks of food-borne illnesses that have caused sickness and death in our country, I believe it is imperative the action be taken to restore confidence to the American people in the food they eat. This task requires careful analysis of our current food supply dynamic, as well as thoughtful consideration of implications of any potential solutions. Our constituents deserve no less.

Indeed, every link in the food supply chain from the farm to the shelf plays a valuable role in delivering a safe product to consumers, and I believe each link requires flexibility in order to continue to provide high-quality, competitively priced goods to American consumers. A dutiful producer should expect unwarranted government intrusion no more than a consumer should expect their next meal will make them sick.

The detrimental consequences of an overly onerous federal government and bureaucratic red-tape must be carefully weighed against the need for regulation to ensure safe foods. That being said, H.R. 2749 does attempt to find a balance. As a result, the bill has earned the support of a wide range of stakeholders from farm groups to distributors.

Madam Speaker, while I stress the importance of continued work to improve the bill, I support its passage and urge my colleagues to do the same.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on budget requests, I am submitting the following information regarding budget designations I received as part of H.R. 3326: FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill.

(1) Recipient: Robertson Aviation

Budget Designation: \$3,000,000

This designation funds the procurement of internal 200 gallon A-kits and B-kits for installation on UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters operated by the Army National Guard. The Internal Auxiliary Fuel Tank System is a crashworthy, ballistically self-sealing, single-point pressure refuelable internal auxiliary fuel system that has been developed and fielded to H-60 helicopters operated by the U.S. Army Special Operations, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force Combat Search and Rescue, and certain units of the U.S. Army National Guard. Having this system installed on an H-60 helicopter saves lives by reducing the risk of post crash fires by using military standard crashworthy self sealing bladders integrated into rugged aluminum honeycomb fiberglass outer containers. The resulting system provides ballistic protection for aircrews operating in hostile environments and crashworthy protection for all operations.

(2) Recipient: Southwest Gas Corporation

Budget Designation: \$3,000,000

This funding request is for a Gas Engine Heat Pump (GEDAC) demonstration. GEDAC provides essential peak electric and winter gas load reduction. GEDACs not only provide increased energy efficiency, reduced peak electricity demand, costs savings to the U.S. military, resource reductions (water), and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, it also diversifies energy sources and provides the foundation for grid independence in electricity production. This type of energy independence is invaluable to a military installation, or other facility of national interest, that has to continue to function in the event of a national emergency.

(3) Proposed Recipient: USAF, Air Education and Training Command

Budget Designation: \$1,500,000

This funding request is for Air Education & Training Command (AETC) aircraft range upgrades, specifically Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) improvement projects. Air Education and Training Command ranges have an unfunded requirement for enhancements to bring them more in line with the operational capabilities of the F-35. The Barry M. Goldwater Range has an identified unfunded requirement to secure a sensor training area and new instrumented target area as well as two ground moving target sets to conduct real world training which mirrors Global War on Terror requirements. Acquisition of ground moving targets, and development of a sensor training area/instrumented target area within the Barry M. Goldwater Tactical Range addresses the operational requirements which F-16 and future pilots (F-35) will face in defeating urban and moving targets with high precision.

(4) Proposed Recipient: Advanced Ceramics

Budget Designation: \$2,000,000

This funding request supports efforts at the U.S. Army Battle Command Battle laboratory at Ft. Huachuca to aggressively pursue experimental deployment efforts and spiral development of sensor and micro-transponder technologies using the Silver Fox and Manta unmanned aerial systems (UAS). Silver Fox and Manta systems' uniquely compact size and stealth technology coupled with the use of advanced sensors and transponders enable them to detect, track, and isolate the smallest enemy movements, including the emplacement of improvised explosive devices (IEDs)—the enemy's weapon of choice against our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE "JERSEY BOYS OF THE USCGC MUNRO"

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the United States Coast Guard, and the dedicated service men and women who provide invaluable service to our country. I would especially like to recognize Lieutenant Junior Grade Paul Windt of Paramus, Lieutenant Junior Grade Lee Crusius of Hackensack, Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Daniel McGrath of West Milford, and Electronics Technician 2nd Class Lorin Fisher of Jersey City, whose efforts during a heroic rescue on March 28, 2008 saved the lives of 42 fishermen in the Alaskan Sea. These 4 brave crew members of the Coast Guard Cutter Munro, who go by the name 'The Jersey Boys of the USCGC Munro,' are New Jersey natives and deserve recognition and commendation for their brave and selfless actions that day.

Following in the Coast Guard's rich tradition of service to the American people, these young men, away from their homes and families on Easter morning of 2008, were called to action to rescue the crew of a sinking ship. They battled minus 24-degree weather and a pitching sea which threatened to throw them overboard, while transporting the freezing

crew of the sinking ship aboard the *Munro*. Thanks to the heroics of these brave men, 42 of the 47 fishermen aboard the sinking ship survived that frigid morning in March 2008.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending the thousands of Americans who serve and have served in the United States Coast Guard. They are a great credit to our country.

GENERAL SUPPORT OF VETERAN BILLS FOR WEEK OF JULY 27

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support for the veterans' bills considered on the floor this week. I am very pleased that we have reached a point where we can begin to address the many institutional problems our returning soldiers endure under the Department of Veteran Affairs. While some of these issues can be attributed to administrative deficiencies, many of the department's problems can be helped by increased federal support. These brave men and women deserve our support as they risk their lives in combat. This support should be reflected in appropriate legislative action to ease the burdens they confront upon returning home. While many of us in Congress may disagree on our military strategy and presence in Iraq and Afghanistan, we can all agree that our returning veterans deserve far more than what they have received upon returning home from combat.

Although the Bush Administration initiated the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it failed to provide for critical veterans' health care benefits and programs that would have helped to reorient our returning troops into society. However, under a new administration and as evidenced by the bills considered this week, Congress is working diligently to introduce and pass critical legislation that will provide our veterans with long overdue support and efficient access to medical resources. Therefore, I am pleased to support all of the veterans' bills on the floor this week, and I commend my colleagues in Congress for their commitment to our nation's troops.

A New York Times report published last fall reported that the nation's newest veterans, particularly the wounded, are paying an exceptionally high price for their service to our country. According to various veterans' advocacy groups, the combination of injury and unemployment coupled with the long VA disability claims process has forced many veterans into foreclosure and other financial hardships. Thus, the legislation on the floor this week will provide for beneficial assistance through federal appropriations, employment and housing resources, and improved veterans' medical insurance programs.

H.R. 3219, the Veterans' Insurance and Health Care Improvements Act of 2009 will expand veterans' insurance and provide much needed healthcare improvements. Additionally, this measure establishes permanent VA authority to provide hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to Vietnam-era herbicide-exposed veterans and Persian Gulf War veterans who have insufficient medical